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USIB-D-41.15/80
(COMOR-D-48/119)
25 November 1966
Limited Distribution

UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

MEMORANDUM FOR UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

SUBJECT: Cancellation of the December KH-4 Satellite Mission

REFS: a. USIB-D-41.15/79 (COMOR-D-48/115) dated 16 Sep 66
b. USIB-D-41.14/229 (COMOR-D-13/43, dated 19 Mar 66

1. The attached memorandum on the subject from the Chairman, Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance (COMOR), is submitted herewith for consideration by the USIB of the recommendation in paragraph 5 thereof.

USIB Action Requested:

2. It is requested that USIB Members advise the Secretariat not later than close of business on Wednesday, 30 November, of their concurrence or other views with respect to the COMOR recommendation in the attached report.

Executive Secretary

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Attachment

NRO review(s) completed.

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MEMORANDUM FOR: United States Intelligence Board

SUBJECT: Cancellation of the December
KH-4 Satellite Mission

REFERENCES: a. USIB-D-41.15/79 (COMOR-D-48/115)
b. USIB-D-41.14/229 (COMOR-D-13/43)

1. COMOR has considered the question of the need for a KH-4 mission in December and has concluded that there are no urgent outstanding intelligence problems which require flying a low resolution search mission prior to the first of the year.

2. COMOR also reviewed the status of the General Search requirements specified in reference a as follows:

a. Against the requirement to obtain stereoscopic cloud free photography of 80-90 per cent of the built-up areas of the Soviet bloc and Communist China each six months, missions since August 1966 have provided coverage of 75.2 per cent of this area with the second part of Mission 1037 not yet tabulated; and

b. Against the requirement to obtain stereoscopic cloud free photography of approximately

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75 per cent of the undeveloped areas of the Soviet bloc and Communist China annually, missions flown since January 1966 have provided coverage of 77.5 per cent with the second part of 1037 not yet tabulated.

Thus the annual requirement has already been met even without coverage obtained by the second part of Mission 1037, and the semiannual requirement appears likely to be fulfilled upon obtaining final results on Mission 1037.

3. COMOR recognizes that when KH-4 missions are canceled, these actions result in delaying receipt of mapping and charting coverage as specified by USIB in reference b. Deficiency in fulfilling this requirement, however, is not considered to be sufficiently important as to warrant launch of a KH-4 mission at a time when other requirements are satisfied.

4. Conclusions. In view of the above findings, it is concluded that the KH-4 mission presently planned for launch on 6 December should be canceled.

5. Recommendation. It is recommended that USIB concur in cancellation of the December KH-4 mission.

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Chairman
Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance

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